

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 30944

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OECD MINISTERIAL

REF: OECD PARIS 22643

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL (REFTEL) THAT IN WITHDRAWING GREEK CANDIDACY IN FAVOR OF BRITISH CHAIRMANSHIP FOR 1975 OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING GREEK OECD PERMREP MADE CLEAR GREECE'S INTENTION TO SEEK OECD MINISTERIAL CHAIRMANSHIP FOR 1976. GREEK PERMREP TOLD US THAT LIKELY GREEK CHAIRMAN WOULD BE COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, AND STRESSED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO GREECE WHICH HAS NEVER HELD CHAIR.

2. AT RECENT INFORMAL MEETING OF PERMREPS MAJOR OECD COUNTRIES UK PERMREP GALLAGHER QUESTIONED WHETHER GREEK OR OTHER SMALL COUNTRY CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN YEAR IN WHICH OECD MINISTERIAL MEETINGS MAY PLAY CRITICAL ROLE, AND MINISTERIAL CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE OF SUFFICIENT STATURE TO ENCOURAGE HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAJOR COUNTRIES AS OCCURRED

IN MAY 1975.

3. SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTION FRG PERMREP EMMEL MUSED THAT IN VIEW OF PROBABLE IMPORTANCE OF NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE IN OECD AND THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE OF FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE THAT FRENCH TAKE CHAIR. SUCH CHOICE OF COUNTRY WHICH HELD CHAIR MOST RECENTLY IN 1970, HE SAID COULD BE POLITICALLY JUSTIFIED BY NEEDS OF THE TIME IN MANNER TO MOLLIFY THE GREEKS. ITALIAN PERMREP CONTI AGREED PERSONALLY WITH THIS SUGGESTION.

4. JAPANESE PERMREP HIRAHARA REMINDED GROUP JAPAN HAS NEVER HELD CHAIR BUT HAD NEVER SOUGHT IT BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE PROBLEMS. HOWEVER FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA HE SAID DOES HAVE GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION OF MINISTERIAL CHAIRMAN IF HE IS STILL IN OFFICE NEXT SPRING.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE CERTAIN FRG AND ITALIAN PERMREPS WERE SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IDEA OF FRENCH CHAIRMANSHIP MIGHT CONCEIVABLY TAKE HOLD IF NO ALTERNATIVE COMES FORWARD. WE DO NOT KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT HIRAHARA WAS REPRESENTING A CONSIDERED POSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER JAPANESE CANDIDACY MOST DESIRABLE ALTERNATIVE BOTH FROM POINT OF VIEW ANTICIPATED NEEDS OF THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING OR MEETINGS TO BE HELD NEXT YEAR AS WELL AS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES. WE DOUBT THAT GOJ WILL FORMALLY SEEK MINISTERIAL CHAIRMANSHIP WITHOUT BEING PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A MINISTER, LIKE MIYAZAWA, WHO IS LINGUISTICALLY CAPABLE OF CHAIRING MEETING. ALTHOUGH GREEKS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE IRRITATED BY LACK OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR CANDIDACY, PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENT COULD BE MADE FOR SELECTION OF JAPAN IN VIEW OF FACT THAT JAPAN HAS NEVER CHAIRED MINISTERIAL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WILL NEED GUIDANCE WELL IN ADVANCE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF
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INFORMAL GROUP OF PERMREPS OF MAJOR COUNTRIES ON DEC 8 IF VAN LENNEP IS TO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS ON POSSIBLE JAPANESE CANDIDACY PRIOR TO THAT MEETING.
TURNER

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